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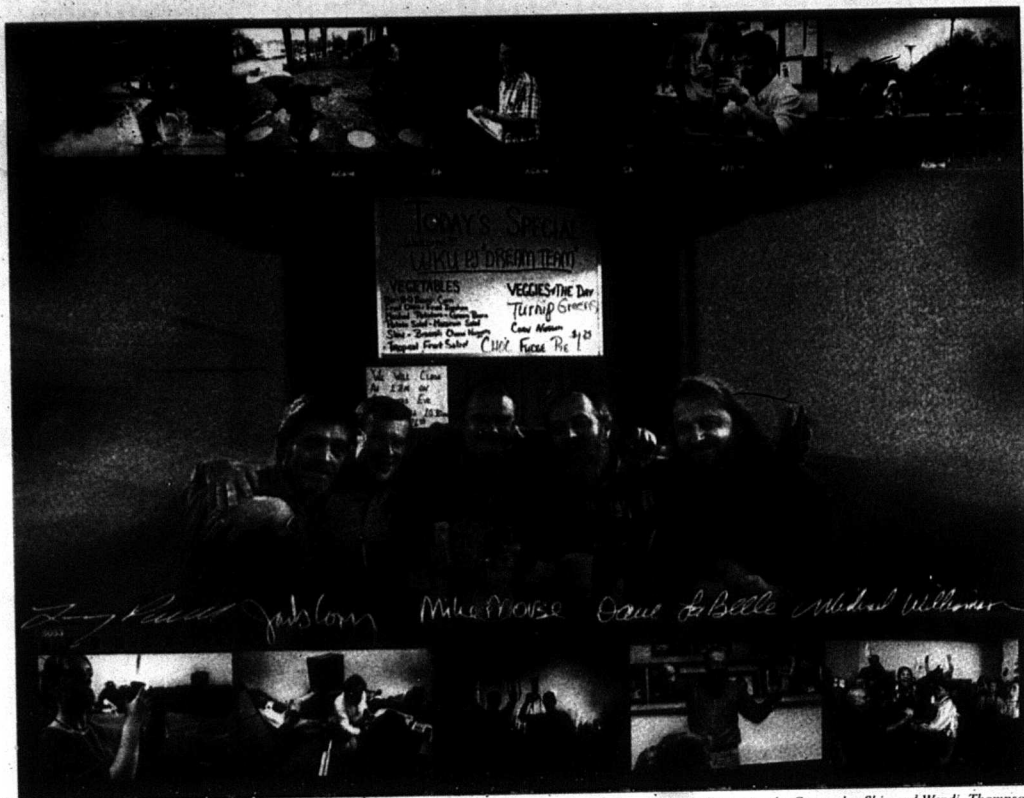


Photo illustration by Cassandra Shie and Wendi Thompson

Western's photojournalism program has been recognized as one of the best in the nation. Since it began 25 years ago, the program has produced many nationally known photojournalists, thanks to the leadership of the faculty and the dedication of the students.

A PICTURE OF EXCELLENCE

Western celebrates 25 years of producing the nation's greatest photographers

BY ERICA WALSH
Herald reporter

Dawn Majors changed her life when she came to Western.

The Nashville senior entered the world of Western photojournalism in 1998 and hasn't looked back.

"I've had some of the most amazing experiences of my life in the past two and a half years," she said.

Majors' experience is something the program has been aiming for since it began. This year, alumni from across the country are coming back to the Hill to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the photojournalism major. For most, it will be like a family reunion.

"Sometimes there are places you can go in your life, even if they are far away, where you can still find family," Majors said. "Our department is one of those places."

If Western's photo major is a family, then Mike Morse, the current program coordinator for photojournalism, and David Sutherland are two of the grandfathers.

"This is my baby," Sutherland said.

The photojournalism baby may have been born

in 1975, but it was conceived years before.

In 1968, current student publications director Bob Adams taught the first official photography class at Western. Graduate student Paul Schuhmann assisted Adams and then became an instructor himself.

"The program got started by one person teaching one person, and that person teaching two more people and so on," Adams said.

After Schuhmann came Roger Loewen, the first coordinator of the photojournalism classes. Loewen, who was the yearbook adviser at the time, continued teaching photography at Western until the late '70s.

In the fall of 1973, Sutherland, who is now a professor at Syracuse University, took over as the first full-time photography employee. He and David Whitaker, the publications director at the time, began working on the idea for a photojournalism major. The two traveled to other colleges to get an impression of those photo programs.

Sutherland saw a demand for a photojournalism program at Western and said where there's a demand, you try to supply it.

Although the major wouldn't be established until 1975, Western had already begun a good tradi-

tion in photojournalism.

"There was a strong tradition already in photography," Sutherland said. "(That) tradition gave the program a firm foundation from the beginning."

Sutherland insists part of that tradition came from students like Bill Strode, who later returned to the Hill as a visiting professional, and the other part came from the College Heights Herald.

"The Herald provided a training ground," Sutherland said.

The students got training from the advisers and from each other, he said.

In 1975 Sutherland was teaching full time and Morse was a photographer at the Daily News. Sutherland and Morse discussed a preliminary plan that Sutherland and Whitaker had been developing for a photojournalism major.

Later Sutherland, Morse and journalism student Verenda Smith started writing course descriptions for the classes around Morse's kitchen table.

Smith remembers that time fondly.

SEE EXCELLENCE, PAGE 6A

Past football teams to be honored for achievements on the Hill



This weekend, the 1950 and 1970 football teams will be honored for their achievements on the Hill.

Jimmy Felix and Butch Gilbert each played for the 1950 team. The duo later coached together at Western for 16 years, including the 1970 season.

Page 7B

Homecoming will be HUGE

Columnist John Darr explains how Western selects its Homecoming opponents and tells why the event will be HUGE this year. Page 7B

Raise the Roof?

This year's Homecoming theme has drawn mixed reviews from students, faculty and players. Some ask, "What roof do we raise?" Others say raising the roof means having a good time. Scott Taylor, who helped pick the theme, said the phrase can have many meanings. Page 3B

International Flavor

Many students will be spending the Homecoming weekend going to parties, brunches, visiting with alumni and watching the football game. The 300 international students on campus will be doing the exact same thing — in their own way. For many international students this will be their first Homecoming on the Hill. Page 2B

Homecoming new experience for most international students

By HAVARD HAARSTAD
Herald reporter

Walking down Chestnut Street, Ukraine freshman Ivan Vlasjuk stopped and picked up a coin. He looked at it, flipped it over.

"Is this a five or a ten?" he asked.

Vlasjuk is new in America. He is here with only what he could fit in two suitcases. His home is half a world away.

"I don't think about home that much, a year is not that long," he said.

Over 300 international students at Western are in similar situations. The International Club is trying to make them more familiar with what Homecoming is about.

"We're trying to make the international students interact with American students, help them getting adjusted," said Jeffrey Ximenes, a junior from Brazil. Ximenes is the spokesperson for the 67-member club.

"I came here in 1998, and I heard about the club through friends. I started coming to meetings and got to know people," he said.

This year Ximenes and the rest of the club will try to make new international students more familiar with what's going on during Homecoming weekend.

"I really don't know what Homecoming is, but I have an idea," said Amelia Zapata, a

junior from Mexico. "I think parents are coming and there is a football game."

Homecoming is new to most international students, since few countries have similar traditions.

"We don't have an official day where graduated students come back," Vlasjuk said. "In Ukraine they usually visit at the end of the semester."

Homecoming is a good opportunity for American students to familiarize themselves with the internationals.

"We're hoping to get our name out this weekend, with flags and posters. We will be there for the game," Ximenes said.

The International Club organizes trips and hangouts for internationals and their friends throughout the semester.

"Our goal is to not exclude," Ximenes said. The club is open for students from all nations — Americans included.

Upcoming events for the club include a hayride and bonfire at Ruwet's Pumpkin Farm, Christmas Shopping at Opry Mills and a Spring Break trip to Washington, D.C.

"It's good to do something that can unite people," Vlasjuk said. "International students should get involved to keep track with what's going on. The club is a good way to meet people."

Vlasjuk came to Western

through the American Councils for International Education, a non-profit organization specializing in education, training and consulting in countries of eastern Europe. The organization is sponsored by the American government.

Vlasjuk was one of the 129 students selected from 1,500 applications. The applicants submitted grade reports, recommendation letters and essays. They also had to meet for interviews.

Two of the lucky ones this year ended up at Western.

Even though he's far from home, Vlasjuk doesn't find the American society too hard to adapt to.

"Americans are internationally oriented and open to people from all over the world," he said.

Asian students are the majority among the foreigners. India has the largest proportion with 36 students enrolled. Korea is second with 28 students.

Ximenes emphasized that international students and Americans can learn from each other and that Homecoming weekend will be a good chance to do so.

"We have different values and perspectives," he said. "There are barriers that separate people from different countries. We want to break down those barriers."

Traditions make student ponder the highlights of life on the Hill

I'm always amused come Homecoming. It's a ritual observed with almost religious fervor.

You can see it in the alumni's eyes as they arrive in droves to visit their old alma mater. They're big, excited. They're looking at campus in a way they rarely did when they were lugging a handful of textbooks up the Hill to make their 8 a.m. class on time, cramming for a midterm or trying to graduate.

They're thinking about how good we have it here.

The ceremony's merely their excuse for coming.

Sure, they'll tear into a hot plate of grits at one of the many reunion breakfasts, shake Gary Ransdell's hand, pull out the pocketbook and have a bell tower or two named after them.

That's all fine and good. They're going through the motions.

As the sun hits its zenith, they pour down the Hill. They're far past the freshman 15, and walking steep inclines is hard work with a heart condition.

They'll stand around under big tents and look at pretty floats and drink malted liquids out of plastic cups and talk about a bunch of guys who throw a piece of pigskin around.

Then they'll see those guys throw that pigskin around — but not before the popularity contest.

A lot of pretty girls are standing on a platform in front of the guys throwing the skin. They're from places like Owensboro and Paducah, but they wear shiny letters popularized by ancient Greeks. One of them will become the Queen.

Few really know how all this started. Certainly the alumni don't.

But they sit on the chilly Smith Stadium bleachers under the setting sun, smiling from beer and the remembrance of an old prank they played on some sophomore at Western Kentucky State Normal School. They'll grin a while thinking about that shy boy in the fourth row in Astronomy 100.



SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK

Matt Batchelder

From time to time, they'll check the scoreboard, see if Western's ahead or not.

When the final horn blows, it's not all that important. They're thinking about how good we have it here. They've had that too, and even if only for a day, they'd love an excuse to have it again.

That's what they're thinking when they climb into their SUVs and minivans and head back to various suburbs, with their spirits making perhaps better masters in the workaday world.

In any busy time in our life, sometimes we neglect to slow down, step back and look at our general situation, and often, how good we have it.

College is one of those times. That 15-page paper due next week often takes precedence over how stunning the sunset was next to the Colonnade tonight. But as we run around we forget we're just little specks in a very temporary world.

We have a lot to love here, and sometimes we wait 'til it's all over to really think about that. A quick look at the last edition of the Herald this semester would prove that.

You'll see commentaries far sappier than this one, and one of 'em will probably have my name on it.

So before the colored tents come down Sunday morning and the last Budweiser can is plucked off the DUC South Lawn, take a minute from the Homecoming hubbub and think about Western — what you like about it, what it means to you, all that sentimental stuff.

I will

Matt Batchelder is a senior print journalism major from Bardonia.

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'Raise the Roof' gets mixed reaction from all

Some say theme good, others disagree

By JACOB BENNETT
Herald reporter

Some Western students will be "Raising the Roof" at Homecoming, even if others don't know exactly what that means.

Scott Taylor, student activities and organization director, helped pick the slogan as the theme for Homecoming. Taylor said the expression had multiple meanings that made it appropriate for Western.

"Raise the Roof" has the connotation of a party, and we'd like to think of Homecoming as a celebration and a party," he said. "At the same time, campus is growing because of renovation and construction."

Many sports teams used the "Raise the Roof" celebration a few years ago to get the crowd to make noise. Some of the players on the football team said they support the theme.

"I love that, I love that," said

Keith Brooks, a junior from Middletown, Ohio. "I used to do it in high school, any time anybody did good."

Brooks said he didn't learn the "Raise the Roof" ritual — where one bends his or her elbows and pushes their hands, palms open, to the sky — at sporting events.

"I got it from church," he said. "My dad's a preacher. There was a song called 'Higher, Higher' where we would do it. Then we carried it onto the football field."

Natalya Bourn, a sophomore from Danville, Ill., wasn't as enthusiastic about the theme.

"It's kinda old, they could do something more today," she said. "But I can't think of anything better."

Louisville sophomore Michelle Torrens agreed, especially since Western plays on an outdoor field.

"That would be wack," she said. "Raise what roof?"

President Gary Ransdell said he thought the theme stood more for enthusiasm than for any literal connotation.

"To me, it just means a groundswell of enthusiasm," he said. "If the stadium had a roof, we'd lift it off."

Writer's grandparents see Hill as a much different place

By TAYLOR LOYAL
Commentary

Five days after my grandparents were married in 1941, my grandfather left to fight in World War II.

I think about that when I walk past the statue in front of Cherry Hall.

In between early morning yawns and cursing myself for being three minutes late again, I think about how different my experience at Western has been from that of my grandparents.

About a year after my grandfather graduated, he left for Iceland as a soldier. He didn't come home until 1945.

"We didn't see each other for four years," my grandmother told me recently over apple pie and vanilla ice cream.

Charles and Bettie Loyal, whom I call "Grandpop" and "Memom," have been through some pretty rough times.

But when I visit them, we don't have many words about war. We talk about Western. And what it was like to be a Hilltopper in the 1930s.

We talk about the time when hamburgers were a dime, a Coke was a nickel, and you could pay a month's rent with less than \$20.

Grandpop was on the Hill when the statue of Henry Hardin Cherry was erected. He was securing the area as one of his roles in ROTC.

The thing he remembers most about the day was the rain. And the sleet. And the cold.

"We didn't have any raincoats," he said. "Most of us didn't have that stuff anyway."

But like any good soldier, Grandpop toughed it out. "We just stood there shivering and shaking and going on about our duties."

The statue isn't the only thing my grandpa remembers. He knew the man whose name is on the basketball arena.

"Coach Ed Diddle," Grandpop said, carefully searching through 85 years of memories, "always carried a red towel with him. He was a fine ol' gentleman."

My grandmother has other stories. More "campus life" type stories.

She remembers Diddle's daughter, Jane.

Memom used to stay in West Hall. The window to her dorm was ground level.



photo courtesy of Charles Loyal

Charles Loyal reads a letter given to him by his wife, Bettie. Both Charles and Bettie attended Western in the 1930s.

During the night, several students would sneak in and out through the window — thanks to her roommate's letting them.

"Jane" did it the most," my grandma revealed.

Finally, sick of their shenanigans, Memom moved out, but she didn't tell her hall director why.

"You just don't tell on people," she said forgivingly.

But somebody did.

"Obviously somebody told on them," Memom said. "Because they put them all on the third floor."

There were lots of simple solutions back in those days.

Take our current parking problem on campus.

"There weren't enough cars back then to worry about parking problems," Grandpop said.

Many nights after dinner, students would go roller-skating down the Hill.

"A streak of fire — would be flying behind you," my grandpa said.

"You could skate in the street?" I asked. "Wouldn't you get hit?"

My grandparents knew one person who kept a car on campus.

Grandpop said he was really nice to that guy. But it wasn't as if he needed the guy. My grandfather said that he never heard anyone complain about hiking up the Hill.

"You just didn't think about it," Memom said.

But she can remember one time when it was a problem.

"I remember once walking up that hill thinking, 'I'm never gonna make it,'" Memom said.

That day, she'd had a tooth pulled — and had walked all the way from the dentist's office downtown.

Like I said, my grandparents were tough.

Unfortunately, I don't think I inherited any of their intensity. But I do have a sweet tooth.

And my grandmother graciously greets me with an apple pie or a bowl of ice cream, or both, nearly every time I visit.

We talk about Western. And I overdo on dessert while listening to what it was like to be a Hilltopper in the 1930s.

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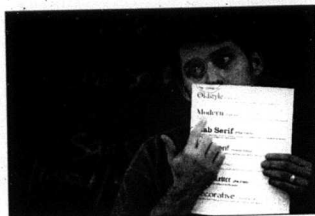
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Homecoming

30 Years of Photojournalism

**Photojournalist-
in-residence
James Kenney**
jokingly points
out the different
types of fonts to
his students
during his
electronics in
photojournalism
class.



Above: Owensboro
senior Jed Conklin
leans on Louisville
Sophomore Megan
Resch for support
in reaction to a
comment made
during a class
critique of student
photos.



Jaclyn McCabe, left, a senior from Berne, Ind., gets advice from Thomas Cordy, a junior from Huntsville, Ala., regarding a black-and-white print. McCabe and Cordy are both in the advanced photojournalism class, which still requires students to hand process black-and-white film and prints.



Steven King, a sophomore from Birmingham, Ala., answers Louisville sophomore Megan Resch's questions about her new Canon 1N camera. While Western's three current teachers.



The stress from lots of work and little sleep encouraged Tho left, a junior from Huntsville Ala., and Rich Mach, a junior fro Va., to blow off some steam in the digital imaging lab because in the photojournalism program spend a great deal of time in not just a place for serious work but also serious camaraderie





Photojournalism major Robyn Larsen, a senior from Idaho Falls, Idaho, looks over negatives at the light table in the student photo lab. **Center:** Louisville senior Jill Snyder cuts and files film at a light table inside the photojournalism student lab.



Above: Andreas Fuhrmann, left, recently quit his job managing a restaurant in Colorado to pursue photojournalism, enrolling at Western full-time this semester. Tiffany Hatcher of Aiken, S.C., Jason Easterly, a senior from Smithville, Tenn., and Carissa McCain, a senior from Jacksonville, Ala., are helping him adjust contrast on a black-and-white print.



The stress from lots of work and little sleep encouraged Thomas Cordy, left, a junior from Huntsville Ala., and Rich Mach, a junior from Sterling, Va., to blow off some steam in the digital imaging lab because students in the photojournalism program spend a great deal of time in the lab, it is not just a place for serious work but also serious camaraderie.

Steven King, a sophomore from Birmingham, Ala., answers Louisville sophomore Megan Resch's questions about her new Canon 1N camera. While Western's three current teachers,

EXCELLENCE: PJ major began at kitchen table

Continued From Page 1B

"You couldn't turn around without running into someone with an idea," she said. "We were a group of wonderful misfits."

Throughout the process, Sutherland said there was never any opposition to the plan, partly because of Whitaker.

"We had (his) absolute support," Sutherland said.

With the support of Whitaker, Robert Mounce, dean of Potter College, and Raymond Cravens, vice president for Academic Affairs, the proposal went to Jim Wesolowski, the head of the mass communications department, which at the time housed mass communications, journalism and broadcasting. Wesolowski approved the curriculum.

The photojournalism major was born.

"I think it's amazing," Morse said. "There aren't many college programs that got started around a kitchen table."

It took Western a few years to grow out of the toddler stage and become respected in the photojournalism world.

One reason for its growing credibility and its emerging national reputation was the addition to the faculty of veteran photojournalist Jack Corn, who had been working at The Tennesseean in Nashville about 20 years.

A few years after the major began, Morse went to a conference where Mike Phillips, the managing editor at the Bremerton (Wash.) Sun, talked about finding undiscovered talent. He said Western had a sort of hidden reputation. This was another indication Western was going to be a major name in photojournalism.

Western's reputation for photojournalism was no longer in the dark.

The program began winning the Hearst sweepstakes, known as the college equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize, when the category began 11 years ago.

No other school has won.

Morse is proud of that accomplishment, but insists it's not just the instructors that are responsible for it.

"The program is about the students," he said. "Our leadership just helps focus. We've built a great culture here, that's what made the program great. I always tell the students, 'This is a family, you came here to participate. We'll steer the ship, but you guys have to row.'"

Corn, who taught here in the late '70s to mid-'80s, thinks the

students have done a good job rowing.

"I loved the kids," he said. "We've had great students. Some of them are lifelong friends. We've turned out good, competent students."

Corn also believes Western's program is one of the best around.

"I'm very proud of Western's program," Corn said. "I tell anyone in a heartbeat that I taught at Western."

In the case of Larry Powell, pride in the program runs deeper than being a faculty member.

Powell was a Vietnam veteran who first came to Western as a student in basic photography.

He began helping out in the photo lab and eventually managed it as an unpaid volunteer.

"He did it as a labor of love for at least seven years because he loved photojournalism, our program and our students," Morse said.

Many Western alumni have gone on to professional jobs and Corn thinks it's because of the standards Western has set.

"We have high standards — very high, much higher than most colleges I know," he said. "For example, we were doing a photo story a week for five weeks. I guarantee no other college is doing that much work."

Students admit there is a lot of work involved, but the results are well worth it. Majors said Western prepared her for the real world.

It helped her focus on getting a job at newspapers and helped her make contacts in the professional world, like when she interned at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

"Being here pushes you," Majors said. "It trains you to reach your own goals. But people who leave here often times are legends."

Photographers who have come out of Western are working around the world — from Taiwan to Tampa to San Jose. They're at national papers such as The New York Times and USA Today and in large and small communities across the country.

Not only have students become accomplished in the photojournalism world, but the instructors have national reputations as well.

Michael Williamson, who taught at Western in 1992 and '93, is now working at the Washington Post and has won multiple Pulitzer Prizes.

"He's one of the most passionate photojournalists you'll ever meet," Morse said.

Sometimes though, when peo-

ple leave the Hill, they can't help but come back.

Sutherland was the first to leave and return. Then Corn interrupted his teaching stint to become director of photography at The Chicago Tribune for seven years before returning to the Hill.

And then there was Dave LaBelle, a photojournalist-in-residence at Western from 1986 until 1992.

After three years away he returned to the Hill to teach from 1995 to '98.

The era that included LaBelle, also included Morse and James Kenney.

"That was a very good triangle," LaBelle said. "We all contributed something different."

Adams agreed. "My analogy for that era is Mike (Morse) was the head, Dave (LaBelle) was the heart and James (Kenney) was the hands."

Kenney came to Western eight years ago as a photojournalist-in-residence. He had never really heard about Western until he began studying at Syracuse where his teacher was none other than Sutherland.

Sutherland told him about the program and Kenney followed the footsteps of his mentor up the Hill.

Kenney is now leaving his own mark.

Perhaps the reason Western has become so accomplished in the photojournalism world is because for the students, instructors, and alumni, photography is a way of life.

Morse thinks that's the way it should be.

"Photography is something, if you're doing it right, it's a lifestyle, not a job," Morse said. "You have to live it."

This year, as other instructors return for Homecoming, Morse is going into optional retirement, which means he will teach a class each semester and work with the Mountain Workshops.

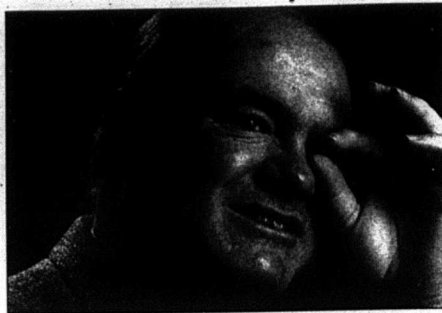
He's the last of the original kitchen-table trio to leave.

When Morse retires, he wants to leave a picture. He still has the original kitchen table where the program plans were written years ago.

When Sutherland and Smith return for Homecoming this year, Morse wants a picture taken of the three sitting at the same table they were at 25 years ago.

He doesn't want people to forget where the major came from.

The kitchen table was only the beginning.



Wendi Thompson/Herald

Photojournalism Program Coordinator Mike Morse will retire this year, leaving behind 25 years of memories while serving Western's photo department.

Last of photo's founders will retire after 25 years

By ERICA WALSH
Herald reporter

Mike Morse insists he was only a small part.

For 25 years, Morse is one of the many who have had a big influence on Western's photojournalism program, but if you ask him about it, he'll share the credit.

"I've literally put 28 years of teaching into making this program the best it can be," he said. "The program is good not only because of me, but because of all the great people I've hired and the great students that really care."

Morse and David Sutherland began the photojournalism major at Western in 1975. This year, Morse is retiring.

Morse had been involved in photography for 12 years before coming to Western in 1969 as a student. He followed his Air Force major, who was coming to the Hill to be the public relations director. After getting a degree in mass communications and while working on a master's in intercultural studies, Morse worked at the Daily News as a staff photographer and taught part time.

He was there when Sutherland talked to him about helping develop a photojournalism major at Western.

Sutherland was then photojournalism program coordinator and Morse later signed on as an instructor.

"We were having a ball," Morse said. "We were having fun."

The first year the major existed, there were only about eight students who majored in

photojournalism. The next year it grew to about 20 or 30.

"Eventually, there were students all over the university taking basic photo," he said.

When Sutherland left Western after three and a half years, Morse took over as program coordinator and has held the position ever since.

Now that Morse is going into optional retirement, he's looking forward to catching up on some of the hobbies that he hasn't had time for.

"I'm a person that has many interests and hobbies, and in the past 10-15 years I've put them all on hold to help run the photo department," he said.

Morse said he wants to work on gardening, traveling and he's actually going to get out there and do some photography. He's spent the past years working on the program, and now he's going to go out and take some pictures.

Morse insists things will go on just as they always have.

"We have a cultural identity, and I think it's in the culture; you have to keep the culture going, and I've kept it," he said. "I've steered the ship, but we've hired great people and they have done their jobs with a passion."

Students like Lexington junior George Mitchell are slightly concerned about some of the details behind the program after Morse leaves.

"Mr. Morse has had a big hand in hiring," he said. "We (students) wonder who's going to do all that now."

Still, Mitchell believes that Morse has kept the program going.

"He is the department," Mitchell said. "He has been for a long time."

"I'm a person that has many interests and hobbies, and in the past 10-15 years I've put them all on hold to help run the photo department."

— Mike Morse
coordinator, photojournalism major

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The **Herald**
welcomes back all
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Homecoming will be HUGE this weekend

Wood: Selig said Homecoming will be phat.

Actually, Western's athletics director said, "I think it's going to be huge."

But I couldn't lead with that.

In his voice there was the excitement of a freshman going to his first kegger and, in print, his statement didn't read with that emotion.

So, after pushing paraphrasing to liability's limit, I'll explain to the freshman and the social recluses why Homecoming will be HUGE without having to paraphrase quotes.

I made a few phone calls Monday afternoon, the first being to Selig, to find out why we play who we play on Homecoming. Most schools schedule chump teams to keep that "buzz" after tailgating, but Tennessee Tech isn't a chump. (NOTE — I'll get to that "buzz" later.)

Western and Tennessee Tech have shared three opponents. Western won all three by a combined score of 111-14. Tech won all three, 86-15.

When Homecoming is



PLAYGROUND NOTES

John Darr

HOMECOMING, the students support the university and the alumni give more cash. And more people attend Homecoming when tailgating conditions are best.

Weather patterns suggest more alumni will give more money in the latter weeks of October — a bigger Homecoming.

However, Selig said that the Ohio Valley Conference tells Western who, when and where Western plays its conference games.

And Western isn't just football, so there are other events to work around.

Less control over Homecoming opponent = A smaller HOMECOMING.

In his voice there was the excitement of a freshman going to his first kegger and, in print, his statement didn't read with that emotion.

So Selig and a slew of other university officials are left comparing weather patterns, the conference football schedule and Western's master schedule. Who Western plays is a matter of circumstance, but Selig said it's likely to be a conference opponent because the OVC normally schedules conference games in October.

"People are coming to see Western," Selig said. "They aren't coming to see who we're playing."

Yeah, but it'll be a good game. And Selig's kind of right. I estimate about 40 percent of those tailgating will go the game, 30 percent will keep tailgating, 20 percent will only come for the free food and 10 percent will pass out or take a nap before the kegger.

Which brings me to my next phone call of the afternoon — campus police Capt. Mike Wallace.

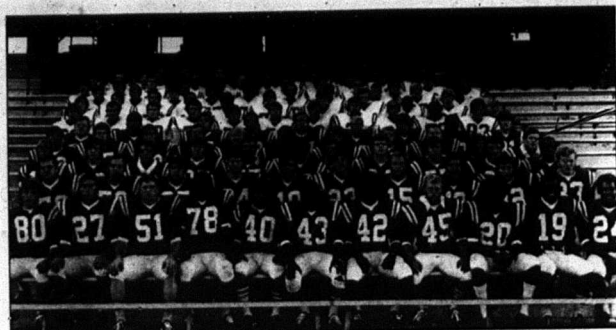
In our brief conversation, Wallace assured me that the enforcement of the alcohol policy during Homecoming would be like any other game and he left it at that.

He didn't say it, but if it's like every other Homecoming I've been to, the policy goes like this: "Be smart. Conceal the alcohol. Keep your balance."

No wonder Dr. Selig sounds so excited. Students will be having fun on campus and alumni will follow suit.

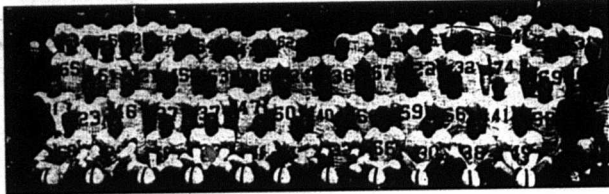
Saturday's game to be a huge HOMECOMING.

John Darr's column normally runs on Thursdays. He can be reached at 745-6291 or johndarr@hotmail.com.



photos courtesy of Sports Information

The 1970 football team (above) and the 1950 football team (below) are being honored this weekend for their accomplishments on the Hill. Jimmy Feix and Butch Gilbert played for the 1950 team and then coached together for 16 seasons, including the 1970 season.



Past football teams to be honored

BY CHAD QUEEN
Herald reporter

The year 2000 marks the anniversary of two great teams in Western pigskin history. The 1950 and the 1970 Hilltopper squads were two of the best in Western's 86 years of football.

When reflecting on these past teams, one name stands out with good reason Jimmy Feix.

Feix was a member of the first-ever class inducted into the Western Athletic Hall of Fame and is the man for whom Feix Field is named.

Feix and Butch Gilbert were both players on the 1950 team that finished 6-2-2. Feix and Gilbert were also the head coach and assistant coach, respectively, on the 1970 team.

"1950 was the fourth year after we dropped football because of the war," Gilbert said. "Discipline was the name of the game."

Ironically, it was not a win that the two remember most, but a loss. Both clearly remember a game against Marshall when the outcome was not pretty for the Hilltoppers. They lost 47-13.

Both men recall a tongue-lashing delivered by head coach Jack Clayton during halftime. But Feix and Gilbert have a sense of humor about the incident and acknowledge that Clayton was trying to give his team a needed spark.

Despite the loss to Marshall, Western did have a lot of success 50 years ago. A homecoming game against Eastern is another game that is etched in the memories of both men.

"We were losing 13 to 6 when I threw a touchdown pass late in the fourth quarter," Feix said.

After the score, Butch came in and added the extra point to give Western a dramatic 14-13 win.

It was wins like the Eastern nail-biter and Clayton's coaching that made the 1950 team special.

"Clayton was a very, very sharp football coach," Gilbert said.

Feix added: "Because of Clayton, we played a different style of football then."

Feix's success as a coach could be attributed to his years of playing for Clayton. Feix's 106 wins in 16 seasons as Western's head

coach are more than any other coach on the Hill.

One season that stands out as a great one under Feix is 1970, when the Hilltoppers were 8-1-1. Remembered as one of the best defensive teams in Western history, it allowed only 7.6 points per game while averaging 24 itself.

"It was the closeness of the players on that team that made it special," said Jay Davis, who still holds Western records for receiving yards and receptions. "We played, practiced and partied together."

A season full of success on the field is remembered in some minds for the controversy that happened off of it.

Though the Hilltoppers won the Ohio Valley Conference title that season, they didn't receive a bid to the playoffs, Davis said. He added that the team came together after Western was bypassed and the seniors consoled their teammates.

More than just great football was produced during this 1970 season. Feix built a rare relationship with his players and coaching staff.

"Had it not been for the person, Jimmy Feix, I wouldn't be worth a nickel today," Davis said.

Davis credits both Feix and Gilbert to changing his life.

"I came to college looking to play ball and party, and those two really opened my eyes and made me the person that I am today," Davis said.

While Western fans may not notice similarities between this year's team and the teams of 1950 and 1970, the players do.

"I heard the defensive team in the 70s were real good," said Chad Kincaid, a sophomore defensive end, "which is just like this year because we have a heck of a defensive unit. Everyone flies to the ball."

Feix finds it hard to compare this year's team to those of the past because the players and the game are so different.

"In 1950, if a guy was 220 pounds he would be the biggest guy on the team and now that's the size of a running back," Feix said. "Today's game is more of a show than in the old days. But I think it's just as pure as it was back then and last Saturday's game is a great example."

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Pre-Homecoming events

Today

Chili and Cheese Lunch & Pep Rally, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Presbyterian Church

Tomorrow

Hall of Distinguished Alumni Luncheon and Induction Ceremony, 11:30 a.m., Bowling Green Warren County Convention Center
Big Red Street Fest, 6-8 p.m., Big Red

Way. Music from the Fender Benders, children's activities, games, prizes and food!
Fifth Annual Awards Program and Dinner, School of Journalism and Broadcasting, 5:30 p.m., 100 Garrett Center.

Department of Communication Alumni Recognition Dinner, 7 p.m., Bowling Green Country Club
Big Red's Floor, 7 p.m., Colonnade.

Featuring the 2000 Hilltopper football team as well as Coach Jack Harbaugh, Big Red, the Big Red Band, WKU Cheerleaders and Topperettes.

Lady Topper Volleyball, 7 p.m. vs. New Mexico State, Diddle Arena.
Hilltopper Soccer, 7 p.m. vs. Texas Christian University, Creason Drive



Krystal Kinnunen/Herald

Owensboro freshman Stephen Scott waits on top of the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity's Homecoming float structure for more wood to be cut.

Greeks plan for fun weekend

Festivities honor 35th anniversary

BY KATE CORCORAN
Herald reporter

When Western's alumni descend on campus for Homecoming, their weekend will be filled with the standard teary reunions and baby-picture swapping.

But this Homecoming will be extra-special for Greek alumni as they celebrate the 35th anniversary of the first fraternities and sororities on campus. Here's the rundown of what they have planned.

◆ Chi Omega will have an alumni tent on DUC South Lawn and an open house all day Saturday.

◆ Sigma Nu is also going to have a tent set up on the south lawn on Saturday and expect up to 400 alumni. Afterward, they will host a "big blowout" at the Plaza Hotel.

◆ Sigma Alpha Epsilon will have a reception Friday night, a brunch on Saturday morning, tailgating before the football game and a dance afterward.

◆ Pi Kappa Alpha is planning an alumni night Friday for Pike officers and the 50 to 100 expected returning alumni. They will have a charity golf scramble Saturday morn-

ing followed by an alumni luncheon. They will also be tailgating before the game, followed by dinner and a dance.

◆ Phi Delta Theta is also taking part in the golf scramble Saturday morning, and afterward they will rededicate their house, followed by a dinner at the Parakeet Restaurant for current members and the 75 to 100 expected returning alumni.

◆ Although it's not their 35th anniversary, Alpha Phi Alpha has big plans, too. On Friday night it will hold a concert at the Corvette Museum, followed by a party at Galaxy 2000. Their "Step Show" will be 7 p.m. Saturday, followed by a party.

Homecoming Weekend

Saturday, Oct. 14

College Heights Herald Brunch, 8:30 a.m., Garrett Center Ballroom

W Club Brunch 11 a.m., Ed Stansbury Concourse in Diddle Arena

Seventh Annual Homecoming Brunch for Alumni & Friends of the Gordon Ford College of Business, 11 a.m., Side Lawn, Grise Hall

Home Economics Alumni Brunch & Silent Auction, 11 a.m., Academic Complex, Room 213

Advertising Alumni Luncheon, 11 a.m., Mariah's Restaurant, 801 State Street

Spirit Masters Reception, 11 a.m., President's Tent

Department of Agriculture Alumni Luncheon, 12:30 p.m., Garrett Center Ballroom

Department of Nursing Open House, 1 p.m., Academic Complex, first floor

Hotel, Restaurant, & Tourism Management Reception Time and Location TBA

Festival of Friends, 1:30 p.m., Downing University Center South Lawn

Theatre and Dance Reception, 2 p.m., University Plaza

Homecoming Football Game Hilltoppers vs. Tennessee Tech 4 p.m., Smith Stadium. For ticket information, call 270.745.5222 or 1.800.5BIGRED (1.800.524.4733).

Step Show, 8 p.m., Diddle Arena. Sponsored by the National Pan-Hellenic Council

Alumni Dance, 10 p.m. - 2 a.m., Ellis Place. Sponsored by the Society of African American Alumni

WKU Student Dance 11 p.m. - 3 a.m., Garrett Center. Sponsored by the National Pan-Hellenic Council. For more information, call the Office of Minority Student Support Services at 270.745.5066.

Sunday, Oct. 15

WKU Choir and Symphonic Band Concert, 3 p.m., Van Meter Auditorium

SANTA FE

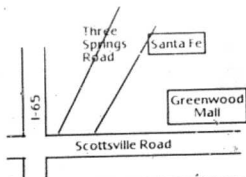
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